IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a viewpoint position/sight line direction determination step of determining a viewpoint position and a sight line direction on a map;

~~an annotation display position determination step of determining an annotation display position of an object, from the position of said object on the map determined based on observation directions of said object in plural panoramic images, the viewpoint position, and the sight line direction; and~~

~~a synthesis step of synthesizing an annotation image to the annotation display position on an actually taken image corresponding to the viewpoint position~~

a reading step of reading a panoramic image according to the viewpoint position from a storage unit which stores plural panoramic images, and cutting out a display image from the read panoramic image based on the sight line direction, wherein the storage unit stores the plural panoramic images respectively while associating them with routes set on the map;

a relative coordinate calculating step of calculating relative coordinates of an annotation object with respect to the route to which the view position corresponds;

a display position calculating step of calculating a display position of said annotation object based on the viewpoint position and the relative coordinates of said annotation object; and

a combining step of combining said annotation object with the display image based on the calculated display position.

- 5 -

2.   (Original) An information processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the map is a two-dimensional map image.

3.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said annotation display position determination step determines the annotation display position of the panoramic image located between said plural panoramic images, by using the determined position of the object on the map~~ each said route is defined by segment points at both ends thereof, and

said relative coordinate calculating step sets one segment point of the route to which the view position corresponds as an origin, and sets said route as an x axis.

4.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 3, wherein ~~the determined annotation display position can be manually adjusted~~ said relative coordinate calculating step acquires observation directions of said annotation object at the respective segment points, and calculates the relative coordinates of said annotation object from the observation directions at the respective segment points, and

said information processing method further comprises a setting step of manually setting the observation directions at the segment points by using a GUI (graphical user interface).

5.   (Canceled)

6.　(Currently Amended) A control program, stored on a computer-readable storage medium, for causing a computer to execute [[a]] an information processing method comprising:

a viewpoint position/sight line direction determination step of determining a viewpoint position and a sight line direction on a map;

~~an annotation display position determination step of determining an annotation display position of an object, from the position of said object on the map determined based on observation directions of said object in plural panoramic images, the viewpoint position, and the sight line direction; and~~

~~a synthesis step of synthesizing an annotation image to the annotation display position on an actually taken image corresponding to the viewpoint position~~

a reading step of reading a panoramic image according to the viewpoint position from a storage unit which stores plural panoramic images, and cutting out a display image from the read panoramic image based on the sight line direction, wherein the storage unit stores the plural panoramic images respectively while associating them with routes set on the map;

a relative coordinate calculating step of calculating relative coordinates of an annotation object with respect to the route to which the view position corresponds;

a display position calculating step of calculating a display position of said annotation object based on the viewpoint position and the relative coordinates of said annotation object; and

a combining step of combining said annotation object with the display image based on the calculated display position.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing method, used in an image reproduction apparatus for achieving walk-through in a virtual space represented by using an actually taken image, of synthesizing an annotation image to the actually taken image, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the actually taken image from a storage unit which stores plural actually taken images respectively being made correspondent to a map, and displaying the read actually taken image;

setting an annotation display position in ~~each of the plural~~ the displayed actually taken image[[s]] based on a manual instruction; and

calculating an annotation display position [[to]] of another actually taken image located between the plural actually taken images to which the annotation display positions have been set respectively, [[by using]] based on the annotation display positions respectively set in the plural actually taken images[[; and]]

~~synthesizing the annotation image to the actually taken image on the basis of the~~ ~~calculated annotation display position.~~

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 7, wherein ~~the annotation display position to said another actually taken image is~~ ~~calculated by performing interpolation to the annotation display position set in each of the plural~~ ~~actually taken images~~ said calculating step acquires the annotation display position of another

- 8 -

actually taken image, by interpolating the annotation display positions respectively set in the plural actually taken images.

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 9, wherein the interpolation is non-linear interpolation[[, and]]

~~from among plural non-linear curves previously held, the non-linear curve is determined based on the annotation position of the object in each of the plural actually taken images~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A control program, stored on a computer-readable storage medium, for causing a computer to execute [[a]] an information processing method, used in an image reproduction apparatus for achieving walk-through in a virtual space represented by using an actually taken image, of synthesizing an annotation image to the actually taken image, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the actually taken image from a storage unit which stores plural actually taken images respectively being made correspondent to a map, and displaying the read actually taken image;

setting an annotation display position in ~~each of the plural~~ the displayed actually taken image[[s]] based on a manual instruction; and

calculating an annotation display position [[to]] of another actually taken image located between the plural actually taken images to which the annotation display positions have been set respectively, [[by using]] based on the annotation display positions respectively set in the plural actually taken images[[; and]]

synthesizing the annotation image to the actually taken image on the basis of the calculated annotation display position.

12.   (Currently Amended) An image reproduction apparatus comprising:

a viewpoint position/sight line direction determination unit, adapted to determine a viewpoint position and a sight line direction on a map;

an annotation display position determination unit, adapted to determine an annotation display position of an object from the position of said object on the map determined based on observation directions of said object in plural panoramic images, the viewpoint position, and the sight line direction; and

an image reproduction control unit, adapted to synthesize an annotation image to the annotation display position on an actually taken image corresponding to the viewpoint position

a reading unit, adapted to read a panoramic image according to the viewpoint position from a storage unit which stores plural panoramic images, and adapted to cut out a display image from the read panoramic image based on the sight line direction, wherein the storage unit stores the plural panoramic images respectively while associating them with routes set on the map;

a relative coordinate calculating unit, adapted to calculate relative coordinates of an annotation object with respect to the route to which the view position corresponds;

a display position calculating unit, adapted to calculate a display position of said annotation object based on the viewpoint position and the relative coordinates of said annotation object; and

a combining unit, adapted to combine said annotation object with the display image based on the calculated display position.

13.   (New) An information processing apparatus, used in an image reproduction apparatus for achieving walk-through in a virtual space represented by using an actually taken image, for synthesizing an annotation image to the actually taken image, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a reading unit, adapted to read the actually taken image from a storage unit which stores plural actually taken images respectively being made correspondent to a map, and adapted to display the read actually taken image;

a setting unit, adapted to set an annotation display position in the displayed actually taken image based on a manual instruction;

a calculating unit, adapted to calculate an annotation display position of another actually taken image located between the plural actually taken images to which the annotation display positions have been set respectively, based on the annotation display positions respectively set in the plural actually taken images.